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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1   A method and apparatus prioritizing video information during coding and decoding.

2   Video information is received and an element of the video information, such as a visual object,

3   video object layer, video object plane or keyregion, is identified. A priority is assigned to the

4   identified element and the video information is encoded into a bitstream, such as a visual

5   bitstream encoded using the MPEG-4 standard, including an indication of the priority of the

6   element. The priority information can then be used when decoding the bitstream to reconstruct

7   the video information.